

**RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

October 9, 2013

WHEREAS, During the week of September 9, 2013, a slow-moving weather system stalled over the state of Colorado causing intense rain that resulted in catastrophic flooding along the front range and Eastern plains of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Many Colorado counties received record-breaking amounts of rainfall, including Boulder County, which received rainfall in some portions of the county in excess of seventeen inches, more than that county typically receives in a year; and

WHEREAS, Flood waters swept across nearly 200 miles, affecting hundreds of Colorado communities; and

WHEREAS, The intense rainfall caused the St. Vrain Creek, Boulder Creek, Big Thompson River, South Platte River, and other waterways to far exceed their capacities, resulting in serious damage to buildings, businesses, schools, homes, farmland and ranches, roadways and bridges, railways, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Hickenlooper declared a disaster emergency on September 13, 2013, in the following fourteen counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Pueblo, Washington, and Weld; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency for the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, Larimer, Morgan, Logan, Pueblo, Washington, and Weld; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Office of Emergency Management reported that at least eight deaths were directly attributable to the flooding and that more than 11,000 people were evacuated from flood-impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 1,850 homes were destroyed and thousands more damaged by the unprecedented disaster; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural and ranching land was significantly affected by the surging and standing waters, ruining crops and soil and injuring or killing livestock; and

WHEREAS, The flooding caused extensive environmental damage, including the erosion of soil, stream banks, and landscapes, and the contamination of groundwater and key waterways with debris, sewage, oil, and feedlot runoff; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado Department of Transportation has reported that 102 bridges were damaged or destroyed, that approximately 200 lane miles of state highways and an unknown number of county and city road miles were damaged or destroyed, and extended freight and passenger rail lines were washed out or otherwise destroyed by the flood waters; and

WHEREAS, Colorado Highway 119 through Boulder Canyon just reopened, nearly four weeks after the flooding rains, finally reconnecting Boulder and Nederland while U.S. Highway 34 and U.S. Highway 36 between Boulder and Larimer counties and numerous other roadways and bridges still remain impassable; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

(1) That, pursuant to the authority set forth in section 2-3-303.3, Colorado Revised Statutes, there is hereby created the Flood Disaster Study Committee, which Committee shall consist of twelve members appointed no later than October 16, 2013, as follows:

(a) The Senate President shall appoint three members to the Committee from among the Senate majority party caucus;

(b) The Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint three members to the Committee from among the Senate minority party caucus;

(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members to the Committee from the among House of Representatives majority party caucus; and

(d) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members to the Committee from among the House of Representatives minority party caucus.

(2) That the members of the Committee shall elect two co-chairs, one from each party.

(3) That the members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for travel expenses and shall receive per diem payment.

(4) That the Committee shall meet up to five times during the 2013 interim and 2014

regular legislative session and may request permission from the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council to hold additional meetings if the members of the Committee deem such meetings necessary. The Committee may hold meetings anywhere in the state that would be beneficial to the Committee's work.

(5) That the Committee shall:

(a) Review existing state policies and resources addressing flood disasters and consider new policies to respond to the September 2013 flood in Colorado;

(b) Address future flood response, prevention, and mitigation across the state; and

(c) Consider such additional matters as the Committee deems relevant and appropriate.

(6) That the Committee may seek testimony from experts, including federal, state, and local agencies and governments, nonprofit entities, and the private sector concerning the floods and disaster relief, policies, and resources. The Committee shall also provide a forum for public testimony.

(7) That the Committee may create one or more task forces to address specific areas of concern to the Committee, which task forces will report back to the Committee. Members of the task forces may include federal, state, and local government officials, members of the public, and representatives of both the private and nonprofit sectors. Members of the task forces, whether or not legislators, may not receive payment of per diem, reimbursement of expenses, or any other compensation.

(8) That members of the Committee may initiate legislation using one or more of their designated bills, pursuant to Joint Rule 24 (b) (1), or seek authorization for legislation from the appropriate House or Senate committee on delayed bills, pursuant to Joint Rule 23 (b). Committee members will not be allowed bills that are exempt from a member's bill limits.

(9) That the Committee is not subject to the interim committee deadlines and may hold its meetings during the 2013 interim, the 2014 regular legislative session, or both.

(10) That staff from the legislative service agencies shall provide support to the Committee.

Senator Lucia Guzman
Senate President pro Tempore

Representative Mark Ferrandino
Speaker of the House of Representatives